

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Original) A percutaneous gastrostomy device comprising:
a tubular portion having a distal end;
an internal bolster secured to said distal end, said internal bolster having a radial wing secured to said tubular portion, said internal bolster being flexible to permit elastic deformation between a first orientation generally aligned with said longitudinal axis, with the wing wrapped into a generally cylindrical configuration and a second orientation with the wing unfurled and extending generally transverse to said tubular portion longitudinal axis, said wing including a pocket;
a rod member, a projecting end and a handle, said rod member having a hollow tube along its longitudinal axis, said rod member being removably received within said tubular portion and said projecting end being removably received within said pocket of said internal bolster; and
a constraining member encasing said internal bolster to retain said internal bolster in said first orientation, with said wing wrapped into said generally cylindrical configuration and to cover at least a major portion of said wrapped wing, said constraining member having a ripcord attached thereto for tearing said constraining member and deploying said internal bolster, allowing said internal bolster to move from said first orientation to said second orientation.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously presented) The percutaneous gastrostomy device according to claim 2, wherein the constraining member encasing said internal bolster is in the form

of a capsule having an axial hole therein.

5. (Original) The percutaneous gastrostomy device as set forth in claim 4, wherein said ripcord is threaded through the hollow tube, through an opening in a pocket on the internal bolster, through a passage in the pocket, and out through a pocket exit hole, through the capsule, through a hole in the capsule, along the sidewall of the capsule and back through the pocket exit hole and back through the hollow tube, both ends of the ripcord extending through a handle of the rod member and both ends are fastened to a pull tab.

6. (Original) The percutaneous gastrostomy device as set forth in claim 5, wherein said ripcord is threaded through said the hole located in said capsule and along a side of a wall of said capsule and positioned to tear said capsule wall.

7. (Original) The percutaneous gastrostomy device as set forth in claim 5, wherein said ripcord is threaded twice through said hole located in said capsule and along each side wall of said capsule to tear said capsule walls.

8. (Currently amended) A percutaneous gastrostomy device comprising:
a tubular portion defining a longitudinal axis;
an internal bolster having a single radial wing secured to said tubular portion,
said internal bolster being flexible to permit elastic deformation between a first
orientation generally aligned with said longitudinal axis, with the wing wrapped into a
generally cylindrical configuration and a second orientation with the wing unfurled and
extending generally transverse to said tubular portion longitudinal axis; and
a constraining member encasing said internal bolster to retain said internal
bolster in said first orientation, with said wing wrapped into said generally cylindrical
configuration, and to cover at least a major portion of said wrapped wing, wherein the
removal of said constraining member permits the internal bolster to move from said first
orientation to said second orientation,

13 wherein the constraining member encasing said internal bolster is in the form of
14 a capsule, and

15 ~~The percutaneous gastrostomy device as set forth in claim 3, wherein said~~
16 ~~capsule is made of a material dissolvable in the patient's stomach.~~

1 9. (Original) The percutaneous gastrostomy device as set forth in claim
2 4, wherein said capsule is made of a material dissolvable in the patient's stomach.

10-15 (Cancelled)

1 16. (Currently amended) A percutaneous gastrostomy device comprising:
2 a tubular portion defining a longitudinal axis;
3 an internal bolster having a single radial wing secured to said tubular portion,
4 said internal bolster being flexible to permit elastic deformation between a first
5 orientation generally aligned with said longitudinal axis, with the wing wrapped into a
6 generally cylindrical configuration and a second orientation with the wing unfurled and
7 extending generally transverse to said tubular portion longitudinal axis; and
8 a constraining member encasing said internal bolster to retain said internal
9 bolster in said first orientation, with said wing wrapped into said generally cylindrical
10 configuration, and to cover at least a major portion of said wrapped wing, wherein the
11 removal of said constraining member permits the internal bolster to move from said first
12 orientation to said second orientation.

13 ~~The percutaneous gastrostomy device as set forth in claim 1, wherein a locking~~
14 ~~ring is positioned medially along the tubular portion, and sized to frictionally engage the~~
15 ~~tubular portion, and slidably mounted there along, and adjustable solely by frictional~~
16 ~~engagement with the tubular portion to accommodate to the size of the wearer, the~~
17 ~~locking ring providing a plurality of perforations and spaced ridges to enable air~~
18 ~~circulation between the locking ring and the body.~~
19

1 17. (Original) The percutaneous gastrostomy device as set forth in claim
2 2, wherein a locking ring is positioned medially along the tubular portion, and sized to
3 frictionally engage the tubular portion, and slidably mounted there along, and adjustable
4 solely by frictional engagement with the tubular portion to accommodate to the size of
5 the wearer, the locking ring providing a plurality of perforations and spaced ridges to
6 enable air circulation between the locking ring and the body.

18-20 (Cancelled)